

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 has been amended as follows:

It is possible to make memory metal tubes which are deformed to a small diameter and which will return to a larger diameter in the slotted section by superelasticity or by shape memory effect. The reverse is also possible when the slotted section is opened to a larger diameter than the programmed diameter by some internal restraining means. It will return to a smaller diameter when it is released. The slotted section can be made in several places along the length of [lo] the memory metal tube and the programmed shapes can vary over the length of the tube.

Paragraph beginning at page 10, line 22 has been amended as follows:

FIGS. 9A and 9B show a short length of memory metal tube 91 with a slotted section 92 that can be brought into a fallopian tube or oviduct 97 in case of sterilization or any other cavity that is to be closed, either temporarily or permanently. This is done via a delivery catheter 93. When the plug 94 (or sterilization device) is pushed [rom] from the delivery catheter 93 into the cavity (such as fallopian tube 97), it will expand and seal the cavity. This is achieved by the combination of the expanded slotted section 92 of plug 94 with an elastic polymer 95 that fills the slotted section 92 in the plug 94. This elastic material has to be able to completely follow the deformation of the plug 94 from collapsed to final size. Eventually, the plug 94 can be filled with a UV-curing material to make it solid by means of a light from a core fiber. At the proximal end of the plug 94, an extraction wire 96 is provided for withdrawal into delivery tube 93 in case the plug has to be removed again. FIG. 9C shows a chalice-shaped variant of a

sterilization device 94 with a slotted tube 150 that has slots at both ends to make a device that can be put into a cavity that has a shape with a smaller diameter in the center area and bigger diameters above and below (i.e., a cavity with a constricted portion). This is the case in the exit side of the oviduct, near the uterus. The center area of the hollow memory metal tube 150 is sealed with a plug 99 having an attached extraction wire 96. The expanded sections 151 and 152 of tube 150 can be combined with an elastic polymer (not shown) that finishes the chalice shape to result in less irritation of the adjacent tissue and to get a better sealing against the wall of the oviduct 97.

In the claims:

1. (Amended) A medical instrument comprising at least one memory metal tube programmed for an effect selected from the group of effects consisting of memory effect and superelasticity and having in at least one section thereof a plurality of slots defining a retrieval basket such that the slotted retrieval basket section is capable of expansion and contraction to surroundingly contact, capture and retrieve [particles] at least one particle.